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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

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MEMORANDUM FOR AGENCY COUNTERPARTS

SUBJECT:

Release of National Security Council Documents

We are concerned about recent instances where National Security Council (NSC) originated documents were disseminated outside of recipient agencies without our concurrence. I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the obligations your agency has in regard to the release of NSC originated documents.

The "third-agency" rule requires an addressee agency to obtain the permission of the originating agency before transmitting documents or information to a third party, including other agencies, the Congress, the courts, and the public. Therefore, when processing a request for documents involving information originating at the NSC, you should forward such documents for NSC review prior to release. Our policy remains to release such documents and information wherever possible, but our obligation to protect certain categories of information necessitates review prior to release. This obligation extends to both classified and unclassified documents, since the latter may contain policydeliberative or other exempt or privileged information.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We will, of course, apply this standard to our review for release of documents and information originating in your agencies.

Robert M. Kimmitt Executive Secretary Mr. Donald P. Gregg Assistant to the Vice President for National Security Affairs

Mr. William B. Staples Executive Secretary Arms Control and Disarmament Agency

Mr. Malcolm H. Butler Executive Secretary Agency for International Development

Mr. Beryl Sprinkel Chairman-designate President's Council of Economic Advisors

Executive Secretary
Central Intelligence Agency

Mrs. Helen Robbins Executive Assistant to the Secretary Department of Commerce

Colonel R. J. Affourtit Executive Secretary Department of Defense

Mr. William Vitale Executive Secretary Department of Energy

Mr. Edward O'Malley Assistant Director, Intelligence Division Federal Bureau of Investigation

BG George Joulwan Executive Assistant to the Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff

Mr. Stephen Galebach Special Assistant to the Attorney General Department of Justice STAT

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Chief of Staff National Security Agency

Mr. Alton Keel Associate Director for National Security and International Affairs Office of Management and Budget

Dr. George Keyworth Director Office of Science and Technology Policy

Mr. Nicholas Platt Executive Secretary Department of State

Mr. Edward Stucky Acting Executive Secretary Department of the Treasury

Mr. C. William LaSalle
Chief of the Executive Secretariat
U. S. Information Agency

Mr. Dennis Whitfield Executive Assistant to the U.S. Trade Representative